

CLASSIC PUZZLES

By Gyles Brandreth

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Sample puzzles

The word **ABSCOND** contains the four consecutive letters **ABCD**, in the correct order. Indeed the word **ABSCONDED** contains the letters **ABCDE**. See if you can find words that contain the following groups of letters in the correct order.

DEFG FGHI HIJK
MNOP QRST
RSTU XYZ

Take twenty-two coins and arrange them in twenty-one rows with four coins in each row.

A stick I found that weighed two pound: I sawed it up one day in pieces eight of equal weight! How much did each piece weigh? (Everybody says 'a quarter of a pound,' which is wrong.)

Harper & Row, 1986, 182 pages,
8" x 5 1/4", paperback, \$6.95

Books

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The Laser Guidebook — Jeff Hecht. Presents information on the functional characteristics of lasers. Begins with an overview of the field that explains the basics of lasers and optics. Goes on to examine the different types of lasers, telling how they work and what they will do. McGraw, 1986, 380 p., illus., \$49.50.

A Naturalist's Teaching Manual: Activities and Ideas for Teaching Natural History — Jennifer Bauer Wilson. Presents more than 100 activities to help communicate the wonders of natural history to people of all ages. Projects for indoors and outdoors include discovery trips, crafts, games, notebooks and experiments. PH Pr, 1986, 175 p., illus., paper, \$12.95.

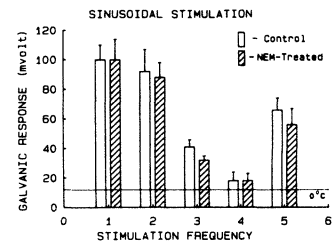
Return to the High Valley: Coming Full Circle — Kenneth E. Read. An account, combining scholarship and personal narrative, of this outstanding anthropologist's return to the Asaro Valley of Papua New Guinea 31 years after he did his original fieldwork there. Discusses how urbanization and modern contacts have not brought unmitigated benefits to the Valley, although some of the harsher aspects of traditional life have been softened or eliminated. U of Cal Pr, 1986, 269 p., illus., \$18.95.

The Secret House: 24 Hours in the Strange and Unexpected World in Which We Spend Our Nights and Days — David Bodanis. An account of the astonishing physical and biological events that take place in a house during our sleeping and waking hours. Much of what is described is invisible to the naked eye or inaudible to the human ear. Reveals how processed foods are made, how polyester shirt fibers create an electrostatic field that guarantees dirty collars and cuffs, why potato chips snap, why pantyhose rip and a host of other interesting facts. Illustrated with electron micrographs, thermographs and computer-enhanced X-rays that give a unique view of the world around us. S&S, 1986, 223 p., color/b&w illus., \$18.95.

Waiting for Disaster: Earthquake Watch in California — Ralph H. Turner, Joanne M. Nigg and Denise Heller Paz. Three sociologists examine the public response to an actual threat of impending earthquake disaster. The authors highlight the problems of the media in relaying the news of the earthquake threat and the difficulties of the public in assessing the threat. U of Cal Pr, 1986, 446 p., charts & graphs, \$35.

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